



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in 51 Nebraska counties (and neighboring counties in Colorado, Kansas, South Dakota and Wyoming) may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues to farmers and ranchers caused by high temperatures, high winds, excessive heat, and ongoing drought that occurred in the following 36 primary Nebraska counties beginning January 1, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary Nebraska counties:

Arthur	Banner	Blaine	Box Butte	Chase
Cherry	Cheyenne	Custer	Dawes	Dawson
Deuel	Dundy	Franklin	Frontier	Furnas
Garden	Gosper	Grant	Harlan	Hayes
Hitchcock	Holt	Hooker	Keith	Kimball
Lincoln	Logan	McPherson	Morrill	Perkins
Phelps	Red Willow	Scotts Bluff	Sheridan	Sioux
Thomas				

Neighboring Nebraska counties:

Adams	Antelope	Boyd	Brown	Buffalo
Garfield	Kearney	Keya Paha	Knox	Loup
Rock	Sherman	Valley	Webster	Wheeler

Neighboring Colorado counties:

Logan	Phillips	Sedgwick	Weld	Yuma
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Neighboring Kansas counties:

Cheyenne	Decatur	Norton	Phillips	Rawlins
Smith				

Neighboring South Dakota counties:

Bennett	Fall River	Shannon	Todd	Tripp
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Neighboring Wyoming counties:

Goshen	Laramie	Niobrara
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Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared this disaster at the request of Governor Dave Heineman

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

For information and application forms, call toll-free (800) 659-2955, or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. Mail completed applications to the U. S. Small Business Administration at 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **March 13, 2007**.

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